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Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

Tuberculosis and High School Education

Dr. R. C. Main, Health Officer of Santa Barbara County, gives the following interesting report of a project in health education among high school students:

"Too often we fail to accomplish or to even appreciate certain potential benefits in education which are inherent in the school health program—the development of self-reliance in boys and girls and the establishment of the practice of applying scientific knowledge in their own personal lives. It may fairly be questioned whether we health officers and nurses, in the performance of certain services, do not rob the children of opportunities for growth in personality and independence. Perhaps we do too much for them and to them and not enough with them.

Such is the conviction of the Santa Barbara County Health Department and of the faculty of Carpinteria Union High School where we have just completed a series of tuberculin tests. Two years ago we found indifference and apathy, not to say synical sophistication, among these students who are preponderantly of native white American stock and of higher than average economic situation. Their health histories, examined at that time, indicated, in our opinion, that 102 of them (69 per cent) should take the tuberculin test, inasmuch as many of them had never been tested at all and others, though negative at one time, had not been tested recently. Accordingly, a letter was addressed to the parents, briefly explaining the

nature and purpose of the test and suggesting that the parent approve and formally request the testing which we offered to do without charge. But that method of promotion was not highly successful. Only 25 of the students brought back any response whatever from their parents and only 14 indicated a desire for the test. Testing these brought the total number of tested up to only 42 per cent of the enrollment. In the end, we felt that we had been only about 42 per cent successful in selling to these young people the modern conception of adequate safeguarding of personal health and the scientific control of tuberculosis.

Recently, therefore, as the date approached for the routine offering of tuberculin testing in this high school, the girls' physical education instructor determined to place its promulgation in the hands of the students themselves. Her recent experience in promoting an interest among the girls of the school in the social significance of venereal diseases had given her some assurance that these young people were capable of a sane, intelligent grasp of such a subject and that they might be induced to exercise initiative and perserverance at least commensurate with their age and life experience. For during a frank and searching analysis by the class of the subject of social hygiene she had received from them the suggestion that all should take the Wassermann test. And of 83 girls then enrolled in the entire school, 74 took the test (89 per cent), their parents making applica-

tion for it in writing. It was reasonable, therefore, to hope that tuberculosis and its control would, likewise, constitute a topic in the development of which the boys and girls might be led to employ initiative and resourcefulness.

The subject was tactfully introduced for the consideration of the girls' class in physical education. Exhibits were placed in the school. Literature supplied by the National Tuberculosis Association and by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company was made available and afforded rich source material for compositions in the English department of the school. Fresh charts and pictures were unobtrusively posted from day to day. Informal discussions were encouraged and were participated in between students and various members of the faculty, many of whom, themselves, decided to take the tuberculin test.

The student body devoted two of its assemblies to the discussion of tuberculosis. Essays were read at one of these assemblies and these were reported in the school paper.

At the other student assembly devoted to this subject, the chest specialist of the county health department spoke and he exhibited the film, "Let My People Live." He was introduced by the vice president, who submitted to a tuberculin test made before the entire assembly and explained, step by step, by the physician.

It was gratifying to the Health Department to have the students inquire whether they might all of them be given the test. We found from the records that there were 35 girls in the school who had never been tested and 29 others in whom the tests were negative, two or more years previously. There were 35 boys never previously tested and 25 others in whom the tests had been negative. We offered the test, therefore, to all of these (71 per cent of the entire enrollment). A form letter on the high school's letterhead was mailed to the parents of these children, the response to which was likewise gratifying. Fifty-two girls and 32 boys came in for the test with signed parental requests. The better response among the girls may be attributed to the interest and leadership of their physical education instructor and to their previous satisfactory experience when they had submitted to the serological test.

We can now show that 91 per cent of the girls and 76 per cent of the boys (84 per cent combined) in the Carpinteria High School have had the tuberculin test. (13 of the negative tests were done two or more years ago.) This satisfactory result we consider to be due to the method in which the subject was handled as a school project. (Compare 42 per cent success previously.) But the educational results have signifi-

cance far beyond the matter of tuberculosis control or of health itself. Physical health, intellect and social relations will all benefit.

Twenty-eight per cent of those tested have given a positive reaction to the test (P.P.D.—2-strength). Each of these reactors is having a careful family and personal history taken. He and every member of his household will be carefully examined, and we shall expect to find, as usual, a few cases of active tuberculosis among them.

Near the close of the girls' semester course in physical education, the teacher conducted an open discussion of the subject in the manner of the "true or false" suggestions, under 14 headings, following which each girl was required to fill out a sheet indicating her responses. This was, of course, not so much a test of knowledge as it was a means of impressing upon their minds certain characteristics of tuberculosis.

RABIES CLINIC FOR DOGS

The spread of rabies in many parts of the state has stimulated intensive activities in the establishment and enforcement of control measures. One of the interesting newspaper stories that developed in the course of the campaign for the control of the disease in Stanislaus County is reproduced here:

"DOG CLINIC HELD AT HUGHSON SCHOOL"

"Hughson—At a dog clinic held here at the high school this week 45 dogs were given vaccination for rabies by Dr. O. W. Kerr of Turlock. This clinic covers the entire Hughson Union High School district, and according to Felix Hurni, school principal, will continue to be held, with another vaccination next Saturday, providing there are 15 dogs registered for the work.

"This action follows the discovery of rabies in a dog running loose some time ago, which bit one of the grammar school children."

RABIES QUARANTINE TERMINATED

Dr. W. M. Dickie, Director of the State Department of Public Health, has issued orders under date of February 28, 1939, to terminate quarantines on dogs and cats in Los Angeles and in certain areas of Los Angeles County. The city quarantine was established March 26, 1938, and the county quarantine was established February 17, 1938, modified February 24 and March 30, 1938.

Said the old Negro, according to Kettering: "It ain't the things you know that gets you into trouble—it's the things you think you know that ain't so."

SYPHILIS IN STATE HOSPITALS

By AARON J. ROSANOFF, M.D., Director, State Department of Institutions.

In a large percentage of cases of syphilis—more particularly those in which there has been failure of early diagnosis and prompt and thorough treatment—the infection involves the brain and other parts of the central nervous system. Such cases often lead eventually to incurable mental disease. Nearly 7 per cent of all admissions to the mental hospitals of California consist of cases of syphilitic brain disease—for the most part the disease known as paresis. In actual numbers between 400 and 500 such cases are admitted to the state hospitals annually.

The splendid work that is now being done on a rapidly expanding scale by our federal, state, county, and municipal health departments along the lines of venereal disease control should soon yield demonstrable results in the form of reduction of our admission rates of cases of syphilitic insanity. There is, however, one preventive measure that has heretofore not been adequately provided for, namely, the fever treatment (by malarial inoculation) for those cases of syphilis in which there is evidence of involvement of the central nervous system and in which there is, therefore, a danger of the eventual development of paresis unless the fever treatment is instituted before the mental deterioration sets in, which is due to destruction of nervous tissues accompanying the progress of the syphilitic brain disease.

The Department of Institutions of the State of California announces that henceforth treatment by means of malarial inoculation will be available for all suitable cases in the following state hospitals: Agnews, Camarillo, Mendocino, Napa, Norwalk, Patton, and Stockton.

Patients referred to any of these hospitals by any health officer or, through a health officer, by a private physician, as requiring a malarial inoculation may receive such inoculation at the hospital. Thereupon, such patients may immediately return to their homes, or to private hospitals or sanitariums, there to remain under the care of their private physicians during the course of their fever. Patients who can not afford private care will be admitted to the state hospitals, for the fever period, upon their voluntary application. In many cases of syphilis timely fever treatment alone can prevent the eventual development of paresis.

Health is the soul that animates all the enjoyments of life, which fade and are tasteless without it.—Sir W. Temple.

HARVARD ANNOUNCES SYMPOSIUM ON VIRUS DISEASES

The Harvard University School of Public Health has announced a Symposium on the Public Health Significance of the Virus and Rickettsial Disease to be given June 12-17, 1939. Lectures on the etiology, epidemiology and methods of control of these diseases will be given by members of the faculties of the School of Public Health, Harvard Medical School and former students of both schools. Special clinics and demonstrations will be held each afternoon. A nominal fee will be charged to cover the expenses of holding the symposium. These diseases are important because their control constitutes one of the most difficult problems in public health administration. Information relative to the symposium may be obtained by writing to the Secretary of the Harvard University School of Public Health, 55 Shattuck Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

CHANGES AMONG HEALTH OFFICERS

Dr. A. B. Gray has succeeded Dr. P. F. Dieffenbacher as city health officer of Dorris, Siskiyou County.

Dr. David G. Schmidt has been appointed city health officer of Larkspur, Marin County, to succeed Dr. C. C. Everman, who has moved to Point Reyes Station.

Dr. J. D. Coulter has succeeded Dr. W. B. McKnight as county health officer of Plumas County, Dr. Coulter's address is Portola.

Dr. Harry M. Grayman has been appointed city health officer of Dos Palos to succeed Dr. E. A. Patterson.

Mr. Bernard E. Gilmore has been appointed city health officer of Redding to succeed Mr. Winfred Wright.

Dr. James L. Faulkner of Red Bluff has succeeded Dr. O. T. Wood as health officer of Tehama County.

Dr. Wm. E. Fountain of Merced has been appointed health officer of Merced County to succeed Dr. C. C. Fitzgibbon.

MORBIDITY

Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending February 25, 1939

Chickenpox

898 cases: Alameda County 10, Alameda 3, Albany 1, Berkeley 5, Emeryville 3, Hayward 1, Livermore 14, Oakland 18, Piedmont 1, Butte County 19, Gridley 7, Colusa County 1, Calaveras County 3, Contra Costa County 9, Antioch 21, El Cerrito 2, Fresno County 35, Fresno 10, Kern County 10, Los Angeles County 81, Alhambra 7, Arcadia 1, Burbank 2, Compton 1, Glendale 3, Huntington Park 1, Inglewood 1, La Verne 1, Long Beach 6, Los Angeles 123, Monrovia 22, Pasadena 16, San Gabriel 5, San Marino 4, Santa Monica 6, Lynwood 2, Hawthorne 1, South Gate 7, Madera County 21, Madera 1, Chowchilla 1, Marin County 1, Mill Valley 4, Mendocino County 1, Merced County 3, Los Banos 5, Merced 11, Monterey County 1, Nevada County 1, Orange County 3, Brea 2, Fullerton 2, Santa

Ana 1, Roseville 7, Riverside County 3, Banning 6, Corona 5, Sacramento County 3, Sacramento 20, San Bernardino County 5, Ontario 2, Redlands 2, San Bernardino 1, San Diego County 3, Chula Vista 4, Escondido 1, Oceanside 8, San Diego 66, San Francisco 73, San Joaquin County 20, Lodi 6, Stockton 2, Tracy 12, San Luis Obispo County 8, San Mateo County 1, Daly City 2, Redwood City 2, San Mateo 5, Santa Barbara 6, Santa Clara County 1, Palo Alto 7, San Jose 15, Santa Clara 6, Santa Cruz County 3, Fairfield 1, Sonoma County 5, Petaluma 5, Stanislaus County 4, Oakdale 12, Tulare County 21, Porterville 9, Sonora 1, Ventura County 5, Santa Paula 6, Yolo County 1, Yuba County 2.

Diphtheria

32 cases: Oakland 2, Los Angeles County 1, Glendale 1, Los Angeles 14, Santa Monica 1, Mendocino County 1, Orange County 1, Riverside County 1, Sacramento County 1, San Diego 3, San Francisco 1, Daly City 1, Lompoc 2, Solano County 1, Vallejo 1.

German Measles

38 cases: Alameda County 1, Albany 1, Berkeley 2, Emeryville 1, Oakland 4, Butte County 2, Richmond 1, Coalinga 1, Los Angeles County 2, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 4, Montebello 1, Pasadena 2, South Gate 1, Monterey Park 1, Yosemite National Park 1, Orange County 1, Newport Beach 1, Santa Ana 1, Sacramento County 1, San Diego County 1, Escondido 1, Oceanside 1, San Francisco 2, San Mateo County 1, Burlingame 1, Yuba County 1.

Influenza

64 cases: El Cerrito 1, Fresno County 2, Coalinga 1, Los Angeles County 4, Burbank 1, Glendale 1, Hermosa 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 16, Madera County 5, Sausalito 1, Merced County 1, Laguna Beach 1, Roseville 9, San Francisco 1, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Barbara 2, Santa Clara 2, Vallejo 1, Healdsburg 1, Tehama County 2, Corning 7, Tulare County 2.

Malaria

One case: California.*

Measles

3319 cases: Alameda County 115, Alameda 76, Albany 30, Berkeley 215, Emeryville 25, Hayward 21, Oakland 376, Piedmont 4, Pleasanton 15, San Leandro 43, Butte County 2, Contra Costa County 112, Antioch 17, El Cerrito 87, Pittsburg 15, Richmond 38, Walnut Creek 1, Fresno County 9, Fresno 11, Orland 1, Inyo County 1, Bishop 3, Kern County 4, Delano 3, Lake County 3, Lassen County 4, Los Angeles County 42, Alhambra 6, Arcadia 1, Burbank 4, Glendale 1, Huntington Park 2, Long Beach 81, Los Angeles 214, Monrovia 9, Montebello 7, Pasadena 3, Pomona 1, San Gabriel 1, Torrance 21, Lynwood 2, Hawthorne 1, South Gate 3, Madera County 27, Chowchilla 6, Marin County 12, Belvedere 1, Corte Madera 1, Larkspur 2, Mill Valley 2, San Anselmo 33, San Rafael 3, Sausalito 1, Mendocino County 26, Merced County 1, Los Banos 5, Livingston 1, Monterey County 2, Monterey 1, Orange County 8, Anaheim 1, Fullerton 2, Orange 2, San Clemente 1, Riverside County 44, Banning 8, Corona 1, Perris 7, Riverside 53, Sacramento County 59, Sacramento 134, North Sacramento 15, San Benito County 1, San Bernardino County 79, Redlands 2, San Bernardino 14, National City 3, San Diego 35, San Francisco 412, San Joaquin County 8, Stockton 31, Tracy 1, San Luis Obispo County 14, Paso Robles 1, San Luis Obispo 1, San Mateo County 38, Burlingame 9, Daly City 35, Redwood City 11, San Bruno 1, San Mateo 6, South San Francisco 2, Atherton 2, San Carlos 3, Menlo Park 4, Belmont 2, Santa Barbara County 5, Santa Clara County 154, Los Gatos 4, Palo Alto 12, San Jose 171, Sunnyvale 3, Santa Cruz County 9, Watsonville 9, Siskiyou County 1, Solano County 8, Benicia 34, Suisun 1, Vallejo 17, Sonoma County 32, Petaluma 4, Stanislaus County 4, Modesto 1, Tehama County 14, Corning 26, Tulare County 1, Visalia 1, Tuolumne County 3, Yuba County 1.

Mumps

969 cases: Alameda County 23, Alameda 3, Albany 17, Berkeley 87, Hayward 3, Livermore 1, Oakland 76, Piedmont 17, Pleasanton 1, San Leandro 5, Calaveras County 1, Contra Costa County 23, Antioch 4, El Cerrito 14, Pittsburg 8, Richmond 5, Walnut Creek 11, Fresno County 23, Fresno 2, Imperial County 1, Kern County 36, Bakersfield 1, Kings County 1, Lassen County 1, Los Angeles County 34, Alhambra 3, Glendale 9, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 24, Manhattan 1, Monrovia 3, Pasadena 14, Pomona 2, Redondo 2, San Marino 2, Lynwood 3, South Gate 1, Madera County 12, Chowchilla 1, Belvedere 1, Mill Valley 7, Yosemite National Park 1, Mendocino County 3, Merced County 22, Los Banos 14, Merced 21, Monterey County 1, Orange County 5, Fullerton 1, Huntington Beach 1, Santa Ana 2, La Habra 1, Roseville 8, Plumas County 3, Riverside County 2, Beaumont 14, Corona 1, Riverside 21, Sacramento County 4, Sacramento 30, North Sacramento 1, San Bernardino County 3, Ontario 17, Redlands 1, San Bernardino 1, San Diego County 18, San Diego 12, San Francisco 55, San Joaquin County 49, Stockton 21, San Luis Obispo 7, San Mateo County 4, Burlingame 12, San Mateo 6, Atherton 1, Menlo Park 1, Santa Barbara County 2, Santa Barbara 2, Santa Clara County 12, Palo Alto 2, San Jose 10, Santa Cruz County 13, Shasta County 1, Benicia 3, Rio Vista 36, Vallejo 11, Sonoma County 2, Stanislaus County 4, Modesto 1, Tulare County 3, Porterville 2, Visalia 5, Tuolumne County 2, Sonora 2, Yolo County 3, Woodland 4.

*Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the state or those who contracted their illness traveling about the state throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

Pneumonia (Lobar)

66 cases: Berkeley 2, Emeryville 1, Oakland 3, Butte County 1, Fresno 1, Los Angeles County 4, Glendale 1, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 17, Pasadena 1, Redondo 1, Santa Monica 1, Bell 1, Madera County 1, Anaheim 1, Santa Ana 1, Laguna Beach 1, Sacramento County 4, Sacramento 3, San Francisco 12, San Mateo County 1, Daly City 1, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Paula 1, Yolo County 1, Woodland 1, Yuba County 1.

Scarlet Fever

265 cases: Oakland 2, Piedmont 1, Butte County 49, Colusa County 1, Martinez 1, Fresno County 7, Bishop 3, Kern County 6, Delano 1, Taft 1, Kings County 3, Lake County 1, Los Angeles County 22, Alhambra 3, Culver City 1, Glendale 4, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 47, Pasadena 2, Pomona 1, San Gabriel 1, Santa Monica 3, Hawthorne 1, South Gate 3, Bell 1, Madera County 1, Sausalito 1, Merced County 2, Monterey County 2, Orange County 1, Orange 1, Roseville 1, Plumas County 12, Riverside County 3, Blythe 1, Corona 1, Riverside 5, San Bernardino County 7, Ontario 1, San Bernardino 2, San Diego County 3, Escondido 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 16, San Joaquin County 1, Manteca 2, Stockton 7, San Luis Obispo County 2, Daly City 1, San Mateo 1, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Clara County 7, Los Gatos 2, San Jose 3, Santa Cruz County 1, Redding 1, Tehama County 2, Tulare County 1, Porterville 1, Visalia 1, Oxnard 1, Winters 1, Yuba County 1.

Smallpox

35 cases: Fresno County 6, Imperial County 3, Brawley 2, Long Beach 4, Los Angeles 2, Pasadena 1, Orange County 2, Lincoln 5, Sacramento 2, San Mateo County 3, Redwood City 3, Tulare County 1, Marysville 1.

Typhoid Fever

One case: Los Angeles.

Whooping Cough

117 cases: Berkeley 8, Fresno County 1, Lassen County 1, Los Angeles County 11, Alhambra 1, Culver City 1, Glendale 2, Long Beach 6, Los Angeles 18, Sierra Madre 1, Gardena 2, Marin County 1, Mendocino County 4, Monterey County 1, King City 2, Orange County 2, Anaheim 4, Fullerton 4, Santa Ana 5, Sacramento 1, San Bernardino County 4, San Bernardino 1, San Diego County 9, San Diego 7, San Francisco 3, San Mateo County 1, Santa Barbara County 3, Santa Barbara 2, San Jose 1, Sonoma County 3, Exeter 1, Lindsay 1, Fillmore 1, Ventura 2, Yolo County 2.

Meningitis (Epidemic)

2 cases: Fresno County 1, Monterey 1.

Dysentery (Amoebic)

2 cases: Modesto.

Dysentery (Bacillary)

10 cases: Los Angeles County, Los Angeles 1, Sonoma County 5.

Tetanus

One case: Huntington Park.

Trachoma

3 cases: Kings County 1, Indio 2.

Encephalitis (Epidemic)

One case: Butte County.

Hookworm

One case: Glendale.

Paratyphoid Fever

One case: California.*

Trichinosis

2 cases: Berkeley 1, Oakland 1.

Botulism

One case: Los Angeles.

Undulant Fever

8 cases: Fresno 1, Los Angeles County 3, Glendale 1, Anaheim 1, Indio 1, San Bernardino County 1.

Septic Sore Throat

5 cases: Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 1, Pasadena 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 1.

Rabies (Animal)

35 cases: Fresno 1, Bakersfield 2, Los Angeles County 3, Inglewood 1, Los Angeles 10, Manhattan 1, Monterey 1, Pacific Grove 1, San Diego 5, San Joaquin County 1, Santa Clara County 3, San Jose 2, Santa Clara 2, Stanislaus County 1, Oakdale 1.